

Central Michigan University

- Long standing support of our military, veterans and family members across departments and operations.
- Includes Mt. Pleasant and Global Campus
- CMU Global Campus includes 22 bases across the U.S.
(<http://www.cel.cmich.edu/military>)
- ROTC program
- CMU makes *GI Jobs'* **2012 Military-Friendly Schools** List for the third year in a row
- CMU among *Military Advanced Education* magazine **Top Military-Friendly Colleges and Universities 2010-2011** for the fifth consecutive year

The Veterans' Resource Center (VRC) serves Central Michigan University students who are:

- Veterans
- Active Military (including National Guard and Reserve)
- Spouses and/or dependents of Active Military and Veterans

VRC staff is committed to helping each student:

- Get the most out of your CMU experience
- Receive assistance with educational benefits, including those applicable to spouses and/or dependents
- Build academic and social networks.
- Make the transition from active duty to any of our locations or online

General Contact Information

Veterans' Resource Center
114B Warriner Hall

Mount Pleasant, MI 48859

Website: www.cel.cmich.edu/veterans

E-mail: veterans@cmich.edu

Telephone: (989) 774-7991

Fax: (989) 774-7993

Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Also by appointment

- **Serves on-campus and CMU Global Campus students**
 - Formalized structure (2010) around CMU's long standing support of our military, veterans and family members.
 - Fall 2011 CMU VA certified 834 students (includes veterans and family members)
 - Approximately 1,500 students using military tuition discount

- **Internal and External Stakeholders**
 - Admission, Orientation, Registrar, Finance, Counseling, Disability Services
 - Isabella County Veterans Affairs, Michigan Works –Veterans’ Employment Specialist
 - Central Michigan Veterans Fund (\$3,000.00 scholarships)

- **Student Veterans Of America established Fall 2010**
 - Veterans Day 2011: Veterans Outreach Panel, Honoring Veterans Football Game, Veteran Day ceremony, The Welcome
 - BW3 fundraiser March 2012, The Welcome April 2012
 - Plans to host state/regional SVA conference
 - Vet to vet support for new students –buddy system

- **Veterans Outreach Panel (The Welcome)**

- **Kognito Veterans to Campus faculty and staff training**

- **Michigan Student Veterans Educators (MSVE) consortium established Spring/Summer 2010**
 - CMU hosted VA ELR training August 2010 and created and hosts current website

Student Veterans of America

Student Veterans of America (SVA) is a coalition of student veterans groups from college campuses across the United States. It is a non-profit organization focused on addressing the needs and concerns of veterans in higher education.



Opportunities for CMU Veterans:

Student Veterans of America, (CMU chapter) offers many networking and leadership opportunities. Connect with future employers and mentors in your respective fields. Gain professional experiences, volunteer at campus and community events, and establish life-long friendships. Becoming an active member is a great resume builder. No membership fees or long term commitments required.

If you are interested in becoming an active member or would like more information please contact us by:

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/svacmu>

E-mail: svacmu@cmich.edu

To learn more about Student Veterans of America visit the following website:
<http://www.studentveterans.org>

Opportunities for the Community:

Student Veterans of America, CMU Chapter is seeking support from individuals and organizations willing to donate time, resources or funds to support our student and community centered endeavors. If interested in providing support for the SVA please contact:

Steve Rellinger, SVA Faculty Advisor

Director, Veterans' Resource Center

Central Michigan University, 114B Warriner Hall, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859

relli1sa@cmich.edu

(989) 774-7991

CMU Student Veterans of America Fundraiser

**A great cause
and some great food**



All friends, family and supporters of CMU Student Veterans of America
are invited to participate in their fundraising event on

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Everyone is invited to gather at Buffalo Wild Wings in Mt. Pleasant (1904 S. Mission St.) for
lunch, dinner, or a snack. On this day, 20% of purchases* accompanied by the certificate below
will be donated to

CMU Student Veterans of America.

**CMU Student Veterans of America Fundraiser
Wednesday, March 28, 2012**

Present this certificate to your server at the
time of your order and 20% of your
purchases* will go to support

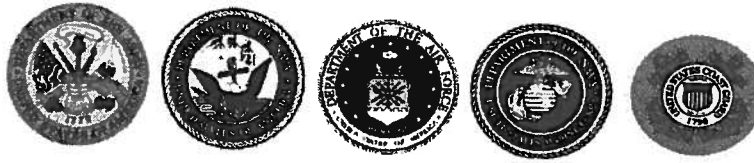
CMU Student Veterans of America.



*Valid towards Dine-In and Carry-Out. Not valid towards gift card purchases.

Only valid at 1904 S. Mission St., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 (989) 772-9464

The Welcome



Please join us at the UC Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 for the CMU campus premier of The Welcome documentary. Tickets are \$1.00 for students and \$5.00 for staff/faculty and community guests. All proceeds fund the CMU chapter of Student Veterans of America. The Welcome offers a fiercely intimate view of life after war: the fear, anger and isolation of post-traumatic stress that affects veterans and family members alike. As we join these vets in a small room for an unusual five day healing retreat, we witness how the ruins of war can be transformed into the beauty of poetry. Here our perceptions are changed, our psyches strained, and our hearts broken. And at the end, when this poetry is shared with a large civilian audience, we begin to understand that all of us are a vital piece of the Welcome as Veterans try to find the way back home. Their examples of unflinching honesty, courage and love lift us up, inspiring all of us once again to feel our common humanity, always the first casualty of war. This event is brought to you by the CMU Student Veterans of America (RSO). For questions, please contact Steve Rellinger at 774-7991 or relli1sa@cmich.edu.

The Welcome website:
<http://www.thewelcomethemovie.com>

Veterans Outreach Panel

CMU looks to create an academic environment conducive to learning for all student populations. The Veterans Outreach Panel is part of this effort. It offers a forum for dialogue between those who are going through, or have an interest in, this transition. Veterans and non-veteran students, faculty, and community veterans can benefit and contribute. Dialogue and open communication are part of the University creating a "veteran-friendly" learning environment. It is especially helpful for veteran students to feel comfortable in coming out to see and know they have a "support system" on campus who welcome them and want to help them succeed.

Resources:

Central Michigan University

Steve Rellinger, Director
Veterans' Resource Center
114B Warriner Hall
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859
veterans@cmich.edu
relli1sa@cmich.edu
Phone: (989) 774-7991

Isabella County Veterans Affairs

Ian Welch, Director
Isabella County Building
200 N. Main Street
Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48858
[Veterans Affairs](#)
Phone: (989) 772-0911 ext. 235
Fax: (989) 779-0565

Vet Centers

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Grand Rapids Vet Center
2050 Breton Road, SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
(616) 285-5795
5 MI centers and 300 across the nation
www.vetcenter.va.gov/index.asp
877-WAR-VETS (972-8387)

VetSuccess

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Transition, Work, Campus, Home, Community, Family
<http://vetsuccess.gov/home>

VETERANS ★ ON ★ CAMPUS

Online Cultural Competency & Gatekeeper Training for Faculty and Staff

1.0 Overview

Returning veterans enter the classroom with valuable life and leadership experience; however, transitioning to civilian and student life represent unique challenges to many of them. To better support and retain the nation's 870,000 student veterans, higher-education institutions across the country are increasingly activating their faculty and staff members, training them to better understand this population, be more sensitive to issues that affect them, and be more comfortable and competent referring them to appropriate support services on and off campus.

This need is driven by several staggering statistics. First, dropout rates for student veterans are at 70% nationwide compared to 45% for non-veteran students enrolled in two-year colleges, and 25% in four-year colleges. Furthermore, a study by the RAND Corporation found that approximately one-third of previously deployed military personnel and veterans showed symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury, and/or major depression, but barely half of them seek treatment from a mental-health provider or primary care physician. Finally, a study by the National Center for Veterans Studies and Student Veterans of America show that nearly half of student veterans report thinking of suicide and 20% said they had planned to kill themselves, rates that are significantly higher than those among non-veteran students.

2.0 Program Description

Veterans on Campus is an online, role-playing training simulation designed to educate faculty and staff about (1) the unique value student veterans bring to campus, (2) obstacles veterans may face in their pursuit of a college degree, (3) effective techniques for managing discussions—in and out of the classroom—around topics that may be sensitive to veterans, and (4) best practices for connecting student veterans exhibiting signs of psychological distress with appropriate support services.

In the 30-minute training, learners engage in simulated conversations with three virtual student veterans, helping each one resolve a challenge they are facing due to their transition. Users practice referring a service member who is being redeployed, managing a challenging class discussion about conflicts overseas, and approaching and referring a veteran who is exhibiting signs of post-deployment stress.

View demo at
www.kognito.com/demos



Simulated Conversation with a Veteran Student Avatar

The goals of the program are to assist universities and colleges in:

- Improving veteran retention and academic performance
- Promoting early intervention of students with psychological distress
- Reducing stigma that could make veterans uncomfortable on campus

3.0 Development Team

Veterans on Campus was created by Kognito Interactive in collaboration with national experts in military cultural competency training, mental health, and campus services for veterans. Kognito Interactive is an award-winning developer of role-playing training simulations in the areas of health and behavioral health. Kognito's suite of suicide-prevention training, entitled *At-Risk*, has been adopted by over 250 universities, high schools, hospitals, NPOs, and state and federal agencies to train over a million teachers, health providers, students, and families to identify, approach, and refer those at-risk for psychological distress. These simulations have undergone rigorous research, including a recently published, randomized, controlled study and are listed on The SPRC Best Practices Registry. Learn more about Kognito at www.kognito.com.



4.0 Program Effectiveness

In December 2011, 100 faculty and staff members in seven colleges and universities across the U.S. participated in a study to evaluate *Veterans on Campus*. Participants first completed a pre-survey (baseline) and then took the 30-minute training simulation, which was immediately followed by a post-survey. Analyses were conducted using a series of independent sample t-tests. Results were interpreted as significant if $p < .05$.

After completing the training, participants reported significantly higher rates of preparedness in the following areas:

- Understanding common challenges faced by student veterans
- Managing a classroom discussion around a veteran-sensitive issue
- Recognizing when a student veteran's behavior might be an indicator of psychological distress
- Approaching a student veteran exhibiting signs of psychological distress and, if necessary, motivating him or her to seek help at the campus counseling center or off-campus resources

In addition, 84% of participants rated the course as "very good" or "excellent," and 98% said they would recommend it to other faculty and staff in their school.

5.0 Purchasing *Veterans on Campus*

Academic institutions interested in making *Veterans on Campus* available to their faculty and staff can purchase an institution-wide license from Kognito. The cost of a yearly license depends on the size of the school and starts at \$2,500. Purchase of the program also includes usage reports, assessment surveys, hosting, technical support, and materials to assist in informing staff about the training.

6.0 Contact Information

Douglas Bermingham
Associate Director of Business Development
212-675-9234
doug@kognito.com



***** CONSORTIUM of *****
MICHIGAN VETERANS EDUCATORS

Website: <http://cel.cmich.edu/MEVSC>
2012 Committees

Statewide Consortium Steering Committee:

- Rob Price (MI Dept of Military Affairs)
- Justin Peters (US Dept of Veterans Affairs)
- Steve Rellinger (CMU, North) *
- Ron Hughes (Macomb CC, East) *
- Steven Lipnicki (GVSU)
- Michael Brennan (OU) *
- Phil Larson (UofM-AA)
- Tracy Moon (WMU)
- Chris Baldwin (MCCA, ex officio)
- Patricia Farrell (PCSUM, ex officio)

Recruiting & Outreach:

- East: Sarah Kowalski (UoM-Flint)
- East: Monique Coleman (EMU)
- East: Michael Brennan (OU)*
- North: Melissa Colby (North Central MI College)
- North: Sharmay Wood (LSSU)
- North: Gary Brassuer (Delta CC)
- West/SW: Julie Hand (JCC)
- West/SW: Colleen Olson (KVCC)
- West/SW: John Pedraza (MSU)

Best Practices/Professional Development

- East: Chris Engle (MCC)
- East: Michelle Virden (UofM-Flint)
- East: Ann Besaw (OU)
- East: Jenn McCabe (Macomb CC)
- East: Matthew McClain (WSU)
- East: Crystal Napier (Henry Ford CC)
- North: Rick Plummer (West Shore CC)
- North: Keith Malkowski (Delta CC)
- West/SW: Bev Baligad (LCC)
- West/SW: Janice Holton (GRCC)
- West/SW: Steven Lipnicki (GVSU)*

SVA & Student Support:

- East: Tommy Taulbee (OU)
- North: Steve Rellinger (CMU)*
- North: Rick Plummer (West Shore CC)
- North: Merry Jo Brandimore (SVSU)
- West/SW: Jack Langlois (Muskegon CC)
- West/SW: Alexia Alexander (Muskegon CC)
- West/SW: Shannon Burton (MSU)
- Michael Lehnert (ex officio/mentor – SVA Board)
- Derek Blumke (ex officio/mentor – SVA/USVA)

